

# TGIF: The NTU Linguist Chatroom

**Join us!**  
**Friday 28 August 2015, 2.30pm**  
**@ HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)**



## Speaker

Dr František Kratochvíl joined NTU in 2010 and specializes in language description, historical linguistics and typology. He obtained his PhD from Leiden University (the Netherlands), was postdoctoral fellow at the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology (Australia), and was a lecturer in linguistics at the Hong Kong Baptist University, before joining NTU.

## Memories of unwritten past in Abui landscape

Landscape concepts, place names built on top, and the associated cultural and historical knowledge recorded in oral tradition enable us to reconstruct settlement patterns of an area. While methodology has been developed in the European context, we apply it to an Eastern-Indonesian island community and uncover several layers of names. We motivate the naming process with reference to 'landscape affordances' (Levinson 2008) and detect patterns of cross-boundary trade. Subsequently, through a series of interview with story tellers, we explore the narrative landscape where the negotiation between the current inhabitants and their ancestors takes place to (i) validate genealogical connection to the mythical actors, (ii) put claims on associated landscape 'affordances' (Levinson 2008), and (iii) explain current physical, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of the descendants of the mythical actors.

*This talk reports a cross-disciplinary research with Francesco Cavallaro (HSS), Benediktus Delpada (HSS), Frengki and Anselmus Delpada (Abui community) Astrid Kensinger (ADM), George Saad (Leiden University, the Netherlands), and Rachel Siao Jia Yu (ADM).*

The TGIF seminar series is organised by  
the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, HSS

